WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming method for expressing gradations in each of unit blocks, being configured by a plurality of dots, on a basis of an input color image data, wherein

an image recording for one color is performed in such a way that unit blocks which are adjacent to each other in a main scanning direction of the image recording are provided with gradation characteristics in different matrix arrangements by switching a front portion and a rear portion which are divided at an intermediate position in a sub-scanning direction.

2. An image forming method according to claim 1, wherein each dot in the unit blocks is recorded at a size corresponding to given gradation.

3. An image forming method for expressing gradations in each of unit blocks, being configured by a plurality of dots, on a basis of an input color image data, wherein

an image recording for one color is performed in such a way that unit blocks which are adjacent to each other in a main scanning direction of the image recording are provided with gradation characteristics in different matrix arrangements by switching a first front portion and a first rear portion which are divided at an intermediate position in a sub-scanning direction in a matrix, while in an arrangement of unit blocks which are adjacent to each other in the sub-scanning direction are shifted by one half of one block of the matrix in the main scanning direction, and

for other colors, unit blocks which are adjacent to each other in the sub-scanning direction of image recording are provided with gradation characteristics in

15

different matrix arrangements by switching a second front portion and a second rear portion which are divided at an intermediate position in a main scanning direction in the matrix.

5   4. An image forming method according to claim 3, wherein each dot in the unit blocks is a recording dot having a size defined by a given gradation which is set as a part of a corresponding unit block on the basis of the color image data.

    5. An image forming method according to claim 3, wherein said one color is

10   black color.